

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-5 and 9-15 are presently pending in this application, Claims 9-15 having been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, and Claim 1 having been amended by the present amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Hoffa (U.S. Patent 809,952).

Claim 1 has been amended herein. This claim amendment is believed to find clear support in the claims, specification, and drawings as originally filed.¹ Hence, no new matter is believed to be added thereby.

Briefly recapitulating, amended Claim 1 of the present invention is directed to a glass product including a main container body, at least one secondary container body connected to the main container body and having a substantially cylindrical shape, and a collar interposed between and communicating with the main container body and at least one secondary container body, the collar having an axis not parallel to an axis of the main container body and an axis of the at least one secondary container body.

Hoffa discloses a medicine-glass. Nevertheless, Hoffa does not teach “at least one secondary container body connected to the main container body and having a substantially cylindrical shape” as recited in amended Claim 1. On the other hand, Hoffa discloses the flange 4 including the recess 5 and having a concavo-convex cross section.² Therefore, the structure recited in amended Claim 1 is believed to be clearly distinguishable from Hoffa.

¹ See, for example, Specification, Fig. 7.

² See Hoffa, page 1, lines 65-67, and Fig. 2.

For the foregoing reasons, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable. Furthermore, since Claims 2-5 depend ultimately from Claim 1, substantially the same arguments set forth above also apply to these dependent claims. Hence, Claims 2-5 are believed to be allowable as well.

In view of the amendments and discussions presented above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in condition for allowance, and an early action favorable to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Finally, the attention of the Patent Office is directed to the change of address of Applicants' representative, effective January 6, 2003:

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Please direct all future communications to this address.

Respectfully submitted,

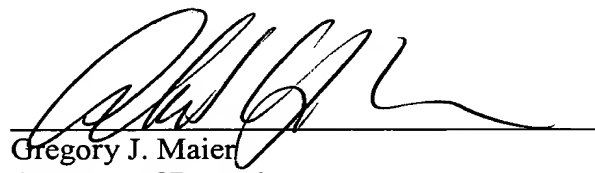
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